

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An object holding device, comprising:
an object mounting assembly having a base subassembly and a mounting post;
a support assembly constructed and arranged to support said base subassembly;
a cover portion cooperatively arranged with said support assembly to capture said base subassembly;

said support assembly including a piston member that is moveable in response to fluid pressure to apply a clamping force on said base subassembly to clamp said base subassembly in a selected position;

a biasing spring comprising a part of said base subassembly and being positioned within said base subassembly; and

a spring-biased plunger comprising a part of said base subassembly and being positioned within said base subassembly and located between said biasing spring and said piston member for maintaining a frictional force on said object mounting assembly sufficient to maintain said object mounting assembly in a selected orientation when said object mounting assembly is not otherwise clamped in position by the use of fluid pressure, wherein said piston member includes a concave cavity and said spring-biased plunger includes a convex surface that remains in contact with said concave cavity.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein:
said cover portion includes an upper body member and a lower supporting base member.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein:
said support assembly cooperates with said cover portion defining a separation volume for receipt of fluid pressure.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein:
said cover portion defines a fluid inlet which introduces fluid pressure into the
separation volume to exert a force on said support assembly.

5-8 (canceled)

9. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein:
said support assembly cooperates with said cover portion defining a separation volume
for receipt of fluid pressure.

10. (Original) The device of claim 9, wherein:
said cover portion defines a fluid inlet which introduces fluid pressure into said
separation volume to exert a force on said support assembly.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein:
said base subassembly contacts said cover portion at a location above the midpoint of
said base subassembly.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1 wherein said mounting post is
constructed and arranged to receive a set screw that is constructed and arranged to adjust
the spring-biased force on said plunger by adjusting the compressed length of said
biasing spring.

15. (Currently amended) An object holding device, comprising:
an object mounting assembly having a base subassembly and a mounting post;
a support assembly constructed and arranged to support said base subassembly;
a cover portion cooperatively arranged with said support assembly to capture said
base subassembly;

said support assembly including a piston member that cooperates with said cover
portion to clamp said base subassembly in a selected position;

a biasing spring comprising a part of said base subassembly and being positioned
within said base subassembly; and

a spring-biased plunger comprising a part of said base subassembly and being
positioned within said base subassembly and located between said biasing spring and said
piston member for maintaining a frictional force on said object mounting assembly
sufficient to maintain said object mounting assembly in a selected orientation when said
object mounting assembly is not otherwise clamped in position by the use of fluid
pressure, wherein said piston member includes a concave cavity and said spring-biased
plunger includes a convex surface that remains in contact with said concave cavity .